

The Presbyterian of the South

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THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.

By Mr. L. E. Morgan.

Men of the Southern Presbyterian Church, don't forget the time and place, Birmingham, February 16-18. The call to the laity of our Church is sounding clear as a bugle note, and like the Highlanders of Scotland, responding to the flaming cross of Rhoderick, you are answering the call.

At Birmingham we will probably make history, and history of the most momentous kind. No mere human agency is responsible for this coming convention, "For behind the great unknown standeth God within the shadow." His hand has brought it about, and every Christian man who wants to be in harmony with God in his plans should be at Birmingham during this convention—destined to be the greatest in the history of our Church—only two days, and round trip ticket at rate of about one fare.

Let us, in response to God's call, leave our business in his hands for this time and meet each other there.

TEXAS-BIRMINGHAM TRANSPORTATION NOTICE.

A large party of Texas business men are planning to attend the Laymen's Convention. Many of the party have arranged to gather at the East Dallas Station one hour before the departure of Texas and Pacific train No. 6, which leaves at 8:30 a. m. February 15. From here a party ticket will be bought for Shreveport at a considerable reduction, and from the latter point a rate of fifteen dollars round trip has been secured.

The connection at Shreveport has been guaranteed and a Pullman for the exclusive use of the party will be handled by Queen & Crescent train No. 2, arriving at Birmingham at 6:15 a. m. Tuesday, February 16. Those wishing to secure accommodations will please write Mr. C. H. Woods, Dallas, Western Passenger Agent.

F. A. Brown.

Mrs. Samuel Mather, sister of Mrs. John Hay, who died a few days ago, left an estate valued at \$2,000,000. Of this, \$250,000 is set aside for charitable purposes. Among these bequests are \$15,000 for superannuated ministers of the Presbyterian Church, \$5,000 for Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., and \$1,000 for Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

Church News

FEBRUARY COLLECTIONS.

The Month of February is set apart, in the General Assembly's schedule, for collections for Local Home Missions. Remittances are to be made to the Presbyterian or Synodical Treasurer, as provided for in each case.

ALABAMA.

Aliceville: Rev. A. E. Grover, of this place, has been called to the Gulf and Jonesboro churches, in Fayetteville Presbytery, North Carolina.

To the Members of the Synod of Alabama: Attention is called to the action of Synod at Mobile, touching the Laymen's Convention, namely: "That each church in our Synod be urged to send representatives to the Laymen's Convention at Birmingham in February, 1909.

E. D. McDougall,
Chm. Per. Com. of F. M.
Synod of Ala.

The Gainesville Group of churches is earnestly desirous of securing the services of a pastor at an early date. Salary \$825, with large, roomy, two-story manse on large lot, within seventy-five yards of the church. Gainesville church was organized in 1838 by Rev. Dr. Gray. The present church building, in good repair, was erected in the forties at a cost of \$12,000. Rev. Dr. C. A. Stillman was pastor of this church for seventeen and a half years; Rev. A. A. Morse for about fifteen years. For full information concerning the field, address Mr. Logan Waller, Gainesville, Ala.

First Church, Selma: Rev. B. W. Mebane, of Mebane, N. C., has been supplying the pulpit of this church during the month of January, and his work has been very acceptable to our people. Rev. R. J. Curry, of Dublin, Va., will supply the pulpit in February. The pastorate has been vacant since August last, and no call has been extended to any one. The congregation is very desirous for a pastor, yet the church, the Societies and the Sunday school are not idle; recently the Sunday school had the largest attendance it has had for a year or more. The usual Christmas offering of \$1,000 for Foreign Missions was sent forward in time. There have been eight additions recently, five of these on examination and one of them a widowed mother. Delegates have been elected to attend the Laymen's Missionary Conference this month in Birmingham. Ex-Governor Glenn has been requested to address our people in the interest of mission work, in which he is engaged. N.

Oxford, Hadden, Livingston, Bethel and Ejes of Tuscaloosa Presbytery, former churches in the 60's, 70's and 80's of Rev. C. M. Hutton, of Fort Worth, Tex., were recently visited by him, also Eutaw church, where he preached to each, spending the time most pleasantly from January 16 to 27. The weather, for the season of the year, was unusually propitious, the congregations were large and thirty-five or more families were visited,

where family worship was observed. At Hadden, two services were held. Several asked for special prayer. A third service was held that night at Bethel (Sumterville) after a ten miles' drive through the country. Rev. W. H. White, of Cuba, Ala., pastor of Oxford and Hadden, is doing good work here and has a strong hold upon his people. The same may be said of Rev. T. S. Knox, at Eutaw. Bethel and Epes are vacant, and it would be well if some good man would correspond with Dr. W. C. Clark, chairman Home Missions, Livingston, Ala., concerning them.

ARKANSAS.

Arkansas Presbytery: It may be of interest to those who are contributing towards and otherwise aiding in our Presbyterian and Synodical Home Mission work to learn how large and quick are the returns of their investments. My labors during the month of January were in the bounds of Arkansas Presbytery, visiting three fields; forty-two members were received, besides many others professed conversion; one church was organized with twenty-one members; fourteen baptized children were enrolled; three officers ordained and installed, and the sum of \$1,693 raised for various church purposes.

W. H. Richardson, Evangelist.

Batesville: A little sketch of Batesville church for the past fifteen months may prove of interest to its many friends. Since November, 1907, we have received twenty-three members, dismissed twenty-five, and now have a total membership of 111, six of whom are non-resident. This leaves us with a resident membership of 105, several of whom are children. We sent to the Assembly's Committee on Foreign Missions last year, \$416.00 or nearly the four dollars asked, and this year have already subscribed \$750.00, or a little over seven dollars per member. The Assembly's Committee on Home Missions asked for \$1.00 per member, and we have paid in all about \$97.00, or nearly the amount asked. Our church, though small, and not having a single wealthy member, sent last year to Synod's Committee on Home Missions, over \$273.00, the largest per capita contribution, and almost the largest contribution of any church in the state. We also had the privilege of making a contribution of \$21.00 to Colored evangelization, \$49.00 to Publication, \$136.00 to Education, and \$42.00 to the relief fund, besides paying the pastor fully and promptly every cent promised, and a good deal more in other ways. We have a mission preaching point and Sunday school in the lower part of town, and several outpost appointments for regular services. We have taken a regular set time for offerings to the Indian Sunday school and orphanage and the Flies Valley orphanage in Texas, and the Assembly's Home and School at Fredericksburg. The morning congregations are improving, and the evening congregations are at least up to the average, if not better. Altogether, we have much to be thankful for, and we take courage and press onward to better things in the future.